

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

FEBRUARY 2008 BRUSH FIRES

SITUATION REPORT # 5

1400 Hours February 13, 2008

The next Situation Report will be 14 February 2008 at 1400 hours.

SUMMARY

Multiple wildfires were reported in 61 localities across the Commonwealth. High winds fueled the fires and made fires difficult to contain. Several localities submitted requests for assistance. Power outages across the Commonwealth related to the high winds have diminished.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: Governor Tim Kaine declared a State of Emergency on February 10, 2008 at 1740 Hours.

Protective Actions: Local Emergencies Declared on February 10, 2008:
Bedford County
Roanoke County
Caroline County
Orange County
Dinwiddie County
Lunenburg County
Nelson County
King George County
Henrico County
Hanover County
Charlotte County

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Media interest in the fires is decreasing and the Joint Information Center has stood down. VDEM Public Affairs and VDOF Public Affairs continue to respond to media calls as needed.

WEATHER

Forecast: Wednesday, 13 February: cloudy; 70% chance of precipitation; high temperatures upper 30's to mid 40's except eastern portion of VA were high temperatures will be in mid to upper 50's; northwest winds 10 to 15 MPH with gusts up to 30 MPH. Night: mostly cloudy; 50% chance of precipitation; low temperatures low to upper 20's; northwest winds 10-15 MPH with gusts up to 30 MPH. Thursday, 14 February: sunny; high temperatures low to upper 50's; west winds 5-10 MPH becoming light and variable. Night: clear; 30% chance of precipitation in Southwest VA; low temperatures mid 20's to low 30's; light and variable winds.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resource and shelter status.

ESF 16 – Military Affairs: Virginia National Guard (VANG)

Joint Operations Center is at increased readiness. 100 National Guard personnel at Ft Pickett, 11 February, completed training by DOF in fire line defense and deployed on 12 February to assist with mop up operations as follows: **40 guard personnel to Totiers Ferry fire (Smith Mountain Dam, Bedford County); 60 guard personnel to Angel Fire (Carvins Cove, Roanoke County).** VDOF plans to utilize National Guard personnel through Friday, 15 February.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The Forestry Command Center is operational and coordinated response to widespread fires in 61 localities. The map can be found at the following link [Brush Fires Map](#)

The following localities reported evacuations and lost homes:

- Dinwiddie (evacuations and 3 homes lost)
- Brunswick (1 home lost)
- Chesapeake (1 home lost)
- Campbell (1 home lost)
- Suffolk (I-664 impacted)
- Louisa (evacuations and 1 home lost)
- Bedford (evacuations)
- Roanoke (evacuations)

All VDOF managed fires are now contained and mop up operations are in progress. VDOF reports approximately 300 fires statewide with over 10,000 acres burned and more than 740 firefighters from across the Commonwealth responded to these blazes. [Fire Summation Report 13 Feb 08](#)

Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)

VDFP staff resumed normal operations 13 February, after staffing ESF 4 from Sunday, 10 February through Tuesday, 12 February. VDFP staff tracked and supported mission requests from 8 localities.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

Monitoring shelter operations.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Southside Area Chapter of the American Red Cross provided mobile feeding throughout Brunswick, Nottoway and Dinwiddie counties. **Roanoke Civic Center sheltered 16 people and fed 105 firefighters on 12 February. A decision will be made later today whether the shelter will remain open due to power outage issues.**

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Monitoring power restoration, shelter situation, nursing homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities and responding to jurisdictional requests,

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

All primary and secondary roads are currently open.

ESF 12 – Energy: State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Currently there are approximately 27,000 outages statewide, this includes power outages related to winter weather on 12 February. Dominion Virginia

Power, Alleghany Power, and Electric Co-ops plan to have power restored by 13 February; Appalachian Power by 14 February.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC coordinated 16 requests for assistance from 14 localities.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

All local emergency operations centers have closed. Fourteen localities requested assistance and eleven localities declared local emergencies.

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